

July 20, 2004
General CAG Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. There were no corrections to the May 18th CAG meeting minutes.

The agenda for July 20, 2004 was approved.

Interior Dust. Greg Bieber, resident member of EPA's Interior Dust Focus Group that met to help determine standards for levels of lead on the interior of houses, provided a written timeline of meetings and tasks related to that process. The timeline begins in December 2001. The standards recommended by the experts EPA used have not been adopted. *A motion was made, seconded and passed that the draft letter urging EPA to implement these standards without further delay should be sent from CAG to EPA.*

Slag Pile. Larry O'Leary reported that in an effort to get information to the public about issues related to the slag pile, a set of questions was submitted to DNR. Written responses by DNR were provided at the meeting. The current Environmental Engineering Report is under discussion among Doe Run and the agencies. Options range from no action on the slag pile to its complete removal. Alternatives include berms, banks and vegetation – alternatives that have been used by other lead plant sites. Concern is caused by the location of the slag pile in the flood plain. Studies have been conducted and indicate high lead levels in the Mississippi River below Herculaneum. Studies on birds and fish within the vicinity of the slag pile have shown impact from heavy metals. If Doe Run remains in business, it bears the cost of remediation. If the company goes out of business, the state of Missouri would be responsible for the clean up costs.

Question about wetlands mitigation raised concern that wetlands could be created in other areas of Missouri to mitigate damage to wetlands from lead in Herculaneum (so there is, no net loss). Herculaneum residents would therefore not benefit directly from mitigation. DNR did not want to see the slag pile footprint expand, but it is impracticable to build the pile higher. To move forward with remediation, some expansion would be acceptable as long as seepage is minimized and treated before released.

CAG members were encouraged to become informed about the issues and studies related to the slag pile. DNR currently is reviewing the Environmental Engineering/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and will release it for public comment before the September CAG meeting. Supporting documents laying out clearly what would be done with the slag pile will be available at City Hall.

Herculaneum Today and Tomorrow. There will be a visioning workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday July 24 at Herculaneum High. Topics covered include issues about health, the buy-out and future growth.

Street Cleaning. EPA will need to collect more data in order to establish that the measures to reduce lead implemented by Doe Run are not sufficient.

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Agency Reports

EPA

- Soil samples still show upward trends in soil lead concentration within .3 miles of the smelter. One home tested above 400 parts per million. Yard excavation doesn't occur as much in the summer because grass is difficult to grow. Expect to see more yard excavations this fall. EPA is concerned that more yards have not been remediated – only three yards out of six that lie within a quarter of a mile of the plant. A conveyor Doe Run recently put into place should reduce lead transfer.
- EPA explained that additional slag could be added by keeping the pile covered with only a small portion open ("daily face"). Because the slag pile is in the flood plain, it will need armor, a big wall to protect against flooding, and runoff treatment to remove lead. The alternative of removing the slag pile would cost \$50 million, create endless truck traffic, and incur law suits. Laws do not permit putting slag underground. The EE/CA will be available for public comment and EPA will have more information at the September CAG meeting.
- An additional problem was noted on Dale Street which was closed by the City two weeks ago. The street collapsed and access to residents' houses is blocked. Slag and rock were dumped there and the road is breaking away. This road condition has decreased the value of the property. One of the houses was valued at \$80,000, while comparable house in another location would be valued at \$130,000.
- Quarterly road sampling determines the loading number, or the amount of lead in the dust. A small amount of dust with significant amounts of lead creates concern that lead is from fugitive dust from plant operations. Measures at the dump station, self-enclosed operations, washing vehicles and cleaning the streets are intended to ameliorate fugitive lead dust.

DNR

- All agencies have to agree on an alternative for the slag pile (before September CAG meeting). Once the agencies are in agreement, the preferred alternative will go for public comment. Modifications would require a new Administration Order of Consent (AOC).
- Since May there have been 16 voluntary home purchases. Out of 71 property owners notified in 2003, only 58 requested appraisals. Doe Run is going door to door to make sure no one is unaware of the buy-out program. DNR will help property owners with their complaints, but there has to be documentation.
- DNR granted Doe Run a 6-month extension for renters in order to solve inequities caused by having to relocate. DNR and Doe Run have not come to an agreement on how to handle that issue.
- DNR is working with the developer on the west side of I-55.
- DNR's data show statistically significant recontamination within a quarter mile of the plant. It is difficult to show the rate of recontamination. Studies establishing the rate will take two to three more years. The source needs to be tied to possible causes of contamination (slag pile, haul route, yards, etc.) If DNR doesn't build a scientific case that can stand up to peer review, there is no legal cause to enforce orders about clean up.

- Protracted studies and law suits make it very difficult for people to make decisions and get on with their lives.

Health Department had no new information to report.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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LETTERS

Parents should do own research on Herky Co-op site

To the editor:

In response to the July 22 letter of Linda Werner, Director Special Services Cooperative of Jefferson County, I strongly urge parents of the pre-school children attending the ECSE Center at Herculanum to do their own fact finding research concerning risk/health effects of lead exposures and/or the environmental conditions in Herculanum. Parents must insist on complete, written information.

As a parent who has spent the better part of the last four years attending meetings and reading governmental/medical information on these issues, the "facts" Ms. Werner presented in her letter appeared to lack necessary details.

Despite recent compliance with air standards, preliminary EPA/MDNR soil sampling results indicate an upward trend toward recontamination.

The National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) was partly based on blood lead level concern of 30 ug/dl (children under six years of age). The standard has not been EPA reviewed since 1990. In 1991, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) lowered the concern level of blood lead from 25 ug/dl to 10 ug/dl (for children under six years of age). Recent medical expert studies indicate concerns of health effects at chronic low-level (fewer than 10 ug/dl in children under the age of six).

This area is a State Superfund Site. DNR has identified issues that are causing DNR to conduct recurring visits.

Recent street lead levels found up in the tens of thousands parts per million despite street sweeping, sampling, roadside soil remediation, automated all-weather truck wash, etc. Residential yard soil remediation level is 400 ppm.

September 2002, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) screening...please read the report.

MDHSS and ATSDR cautioned pregnant women and children from eating leafy vegetables grown in Herculanum.

The report contained various other cautionary suggestions relating to gardening techniques, thorough washing and limited consumption of such fruits and vegetables grown in Herculanum.

It is really too difficult to address all lead exposure and related issues in a letter to the editor and it does not do the information justice.

It is best to stress the extreme importance of parents arming themselves with reliable information. Only in doing this can they make decisions to best protect their children.

Leslie Warden
Festus

To the editor:

In response to the July 22 letter to the editor by Linda Werner, Director of Special Services Cooperative of Jefferson County, I was shocked to see that the Special Services Cooperative would even think of locating their facilities for children with special needs in an area of Herculanum that, contrary to the letter, still experiences contamination and has not been given state clearance regarding redeposition.

Lead is one of the most egregious toxins to the human system, particularly for young children.

To expose children to such an environment and make them vulnerable to such contamination is unacceptable and unconscionable.

It has been proven in studies by lead experts such as Dr. Bruce Lanphear that blood levels as low as 2 ug/dl are harm-

ful to small children. Missouri has been working for years to address this issue in order to protect its children.

The announcement of and plans for this center is a huge step backward which will place these children directly in harm's way.

If the school districts and parents involved in sending their children to this center are really serious and genuine in their concern and care for their well-being of these children with special needs, they need to rethink this proposed action and find another location for this center outside of Herculanum.

Elinor Stock
Chairperson
Joining Hands Environmental Task
Force/Herculanum

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From: Leslie